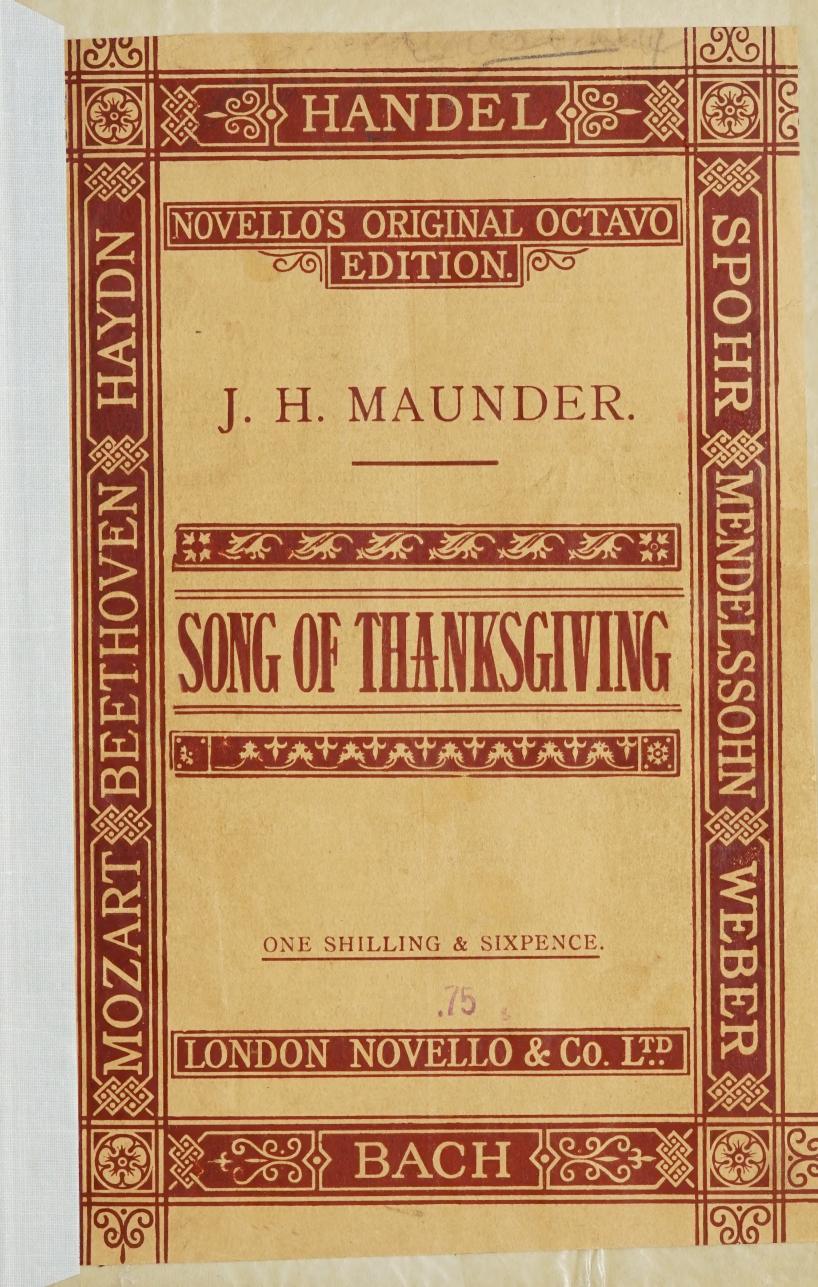


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Song of thanksgiving
Song of thanksgiving

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SONG OF THANKSGIVING

A CANTATA

FOR HARVEST AND GENERAL FESTIVAL USE

FOR SOPRANO, TENOR AND BASS (OR CONTRALTO), SOLI AND CHORUS, WITH HYMNS TO BE SUNG BY THE CONGREGATION

THE WORDS WRITTEN AND ARRANGED BY

SHAPCOTT WENSLEY

THE MUSIC BY

J. H. MAUNDER.

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This Cantata is intended primarily for Church use at Harvest Festivals, but by omitting the hymn on page 26 it is rendered available for general festival use; while for Concert purposes the last verse only of the final hymn may be sung, as given on page 65.

Time of performance 40 to 45 minutes.

M 2023 M 45S6

SONG OF THANKSGIVING.

No. 1.—O COME, LET US SING.

CHORUS.

O come, let us sing unto the Lord, let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and shew ourselves joyful in Him with psalms.

DUET. Soprano and Tenor.

The eyes of all wait upon Thee, O Lord, and Thou givest them their meat in due season.

Thou openest Thine hand, and fillest all things living with plenteousness.

CHORUS.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, from everlasting, Thou art God.

O come, let us sing unto the Lord, let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

No. 2.—GREAT IS THE LORD.

SOLO. Soprano.

When o'er the trees of Eden shone
The new-created day,
What glowing gifts of love Divine,
Adorned each leafy spray,—

What tokens of His tender care, In sweet enchanting grace, Placed by a loving Father's hand Bedecked man's dwelling place!

With gladness all creation turned,
To greet the joyous rays;
And from the sinless world arose
A glorious hymn of praise!

CHORUS. Tenors and Basses.

Great is the Lord!
So sang the mighty sea,
Its wild white waves,
Lashing its new-made bounds!
Great is the Lord!
So sang the torrent free,
So sang the mighty sea,
Its foaming plunge,
With giant voice,
Prolonged the joyous sounds!
Great is the Lord!

CHORUS. Sopranos.

The streamlet raised its gentler voice, The Lord is King, rejoice, rejoice! And, moving through the leaves above, The soft winds whispered, God is Love.

From wondrous beauty everywhere,
The joyous bird, the floweret fair;
The homage of creation rang,
The morning stars together sang!
The Lord is King, rejoice, rejoice!

CHORUS.

Great is the Lord! Among the echoing hills, His stormy winds Chanted the glad refrain! Great is the Lord! His might creation fills! From age to age In endless praise, The Lord of Hosts shall reign! Great is the Lord! So sang the mighty sea, So sang the torrent free, Its foaming plunge, With giant voice, Prolonged the joyous sounds! Great is the Lord!

No. 3.—THE PROMISE.

SOLO. Tenor.

Thus saith the Lord,
While the earth remaineth, seed-time and
harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and
winter, and day and night shall not cease.

TRIO. 1st and 2nd Soprano and Tenor.

God the Lord hath spoken,
And His promise true,
Rings a-down the ages,
Old, yet ever new;
Words of wondrous mercy,
Pledge of love Divine,
Light that o'er the nations,
Shall for ever shine.
While the earth remaineth,
Stands the great decree,
Sowing-time and harvest,
Shall not cease to be!

Lo! our fathers' fathers
Found the promise blest;
Sang the songs of harvest,
Entered into rest.
And our children's children
Shall with grateful hearts
Turn to God Whose goodness
Every gift imparts.
While the earth remaineth, &c.

God the loving Shepherd
Still His flock shall lead,
By the tranquil waters,
Through the dewy mead.
For His tender mercies
Ever shall endure;
And each generation
Find His promise sure.
While the earth remaineth, &c.

HYMN.

(OPTIONAL.)

For Choir and Congregation.

We plough the fields, and scatter
The good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered
By God's Almighty Hand;
He sends the snow in winter,
The warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes, and the sunshine,
And soft refreshing rain.
All good gifts around us
Are sent from Heaven above,
Then thank the Lord, O thank
the Lord,
For all His love.

He only is the Maker
Of all things near and far;
He paints the wayside flower,
He lights the evening star;
The winds and waves obey Him,
By Him the birds are fed;
Much more to us, His children,
He gives our daily bread.
All good gifts, &c.

We thank Thee then, O Father,
For all things bright and good,
The seed-time and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food;
Accept the gifts we offer
For all Thy love imparts,
And, what Thou most desirest,
Our humble, thankful hearts.
All good gifts, &c. Amen.

No. 4.—THE FULFILMENT.

RECITATIVE AND AIR. Bass or Contralto.

The gracious Lord His promise hath remembered;
Each season beareth witness of His love.
He guards His treasures with the fleecy snow,
And worketh mighty wonders 'neath the plains Of Winter, wild and desolate!

He gives command,—and glorious as of old In Eden's bowers, anew the splendour breaks Of bud and leaf and blossom,—with the song Of glad melodious birds in waving trees. Again the flowers, His messengers, Speak the blest words the Lord Himself hath spoken.

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

SOLO. Soprano.

O lovely flowers, blest messengers divine!
Heaven's lingering glories in your petals shine;
Our raptured hearts may still with gladness
trace
God's gentle message in your wondrous grace.
Tempestuous winds resound His awful Name!
The starry hosts His Majesty proclaim!

But ye speak only of the loving care That bids you bloom in fragrance everywhere; For He Who clothes you in your radiant dress Is ever near and will His children bless!

DUET. Soprano and Tenor.

The blushing fruits appear at His command,
And smiling plenty decks the peaceful plain.
He knoweth all our need. His gracious hand
Bestows the blessing of the golden grain.
As perfect now His glorious works are seen,
As when He spake the word and it was

As when He spake the word and it was done!

done!

And virgin earth, in robes of living green, Shone beautiful beneath the new-born sun.

CHORUS. With Bass Soli.

For ever, O Lord, Thy word endureth in Heaven, Thy faithfulness unto all generations. Thou hast established the earth, and it abideth.

When I consider the Heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast created.

O what is man, that Thou art mindful of him?

The days of man are but as grass; as a flower of the field, so he perisheth.

For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone, and the place thereof shall know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endureth for ever and ever upon them that fear Him.

For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him.

Look how far the east is from the west, so far hath He set our transgressions from us.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.

No. 5.—LET ALL THE PEOPLE PRAISE THEE.

SOLO. Tenor.

O Thou, Whose constant mercies Around our pathway spring, Help us to worship Thee aright, And Thy great goodness sing.

Though we are weak and sinful
And wander far astray,
Thou dost in loving-kindness send
New blessings day by day.

Thy vast divine compassion
In mercy covers all,
It gives the shining star its place.
It marks the sparrow's fall.

For all the joys Thou sendest,
For gifts so full and free,—
We raise, O Lord, a grateful song
Of heartfelt praise to Thee.

May we in all around us,
Thy loving-kindness see;
And grant, O Lord, that every gift
May draw us nearer Thee.

CHORUS. With Bass Solo.

Let all the people praise Thee.
O let the nations be glad and sing for joy:
for Thou shalt judge the people righteously,
and govern the nations upon earth.
Let all the people praise Thee.

HYMN.*

(For Choir and Congregation.)

Choir and Congregation.

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell,
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Choir. Tenors and Basses.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His flock, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.

Choir and Congregation (in unison).

O enter then His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His Name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

Choir. Soprano Solo, or all the Sopranos.

For why? The Lord our God is good;

His mercy is for ever sure;

His truth at all times firmly stood,

And shall from age to age endure.

Choir and Congregation (in unison).

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen

* For Concert use Verses 1 to 4 may be omitted.

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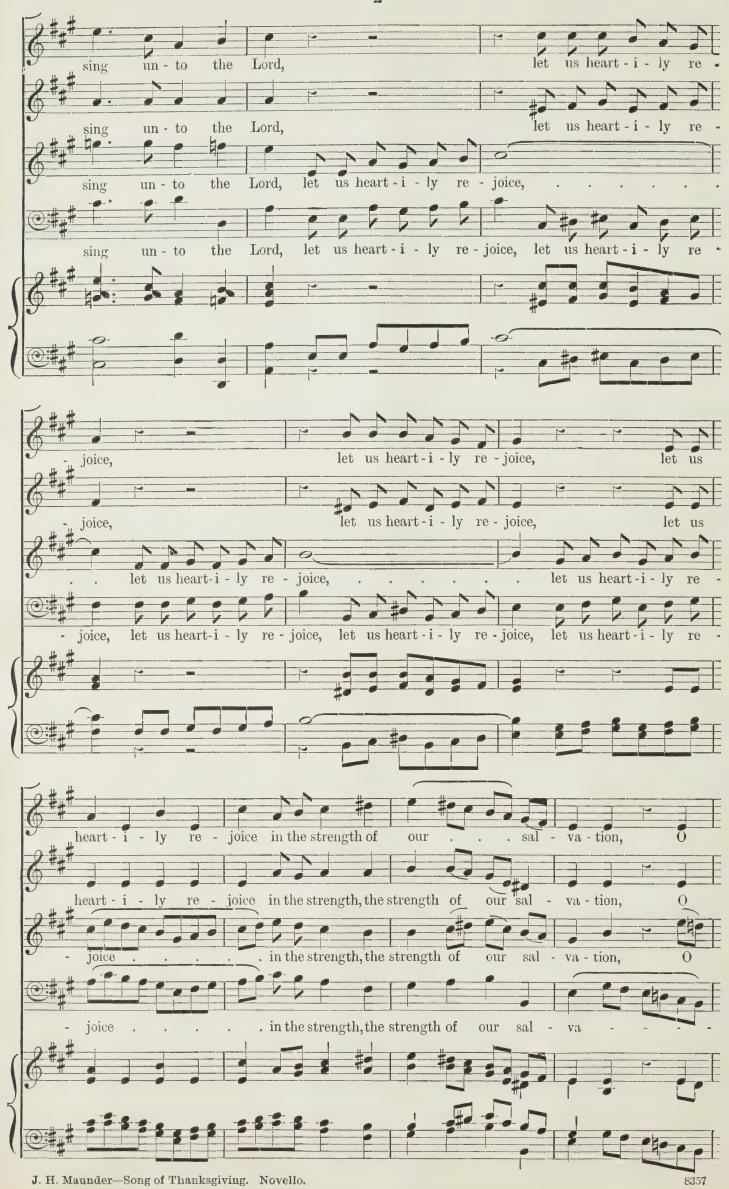
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No. 1.—O COME, LET US SING.



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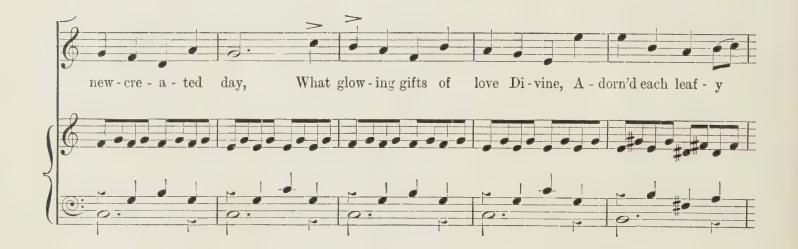




No. 2.—GREAT IS THE LORD.









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^{*} On an Organ of insufficient upward compass, these passages may be played an octave lower, using a 4 ft. Flute stop.

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* The part for the left hand may be played as written, or an octave lower; or it may be omitted, the left hand then playing in octaves with the lower notes.



Ped. (or in 8ves with left hand ad lib.).



No. 3.—THE PROMISE.











HYMN (optional) FOR CHOIR AND CONGREGATION.



Of all things near and far;
He paints the wayside flower,
He lights the evening star;
The winds and waves obey Him,
By Him the birds are fed;
Much more to us, His children,
He gives our daily bread.

All good gifts, &c.

mf 3 We thank Thee then, O Father,
For all things bright and good,
The seed-time and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food;
Accept the gifts we offer
For all Thy love imparts,
And, what Thou most desirest,
Our humble, thankful hearts.
f All good gifts, &c.



No. 4.—THE FULFILMENT.



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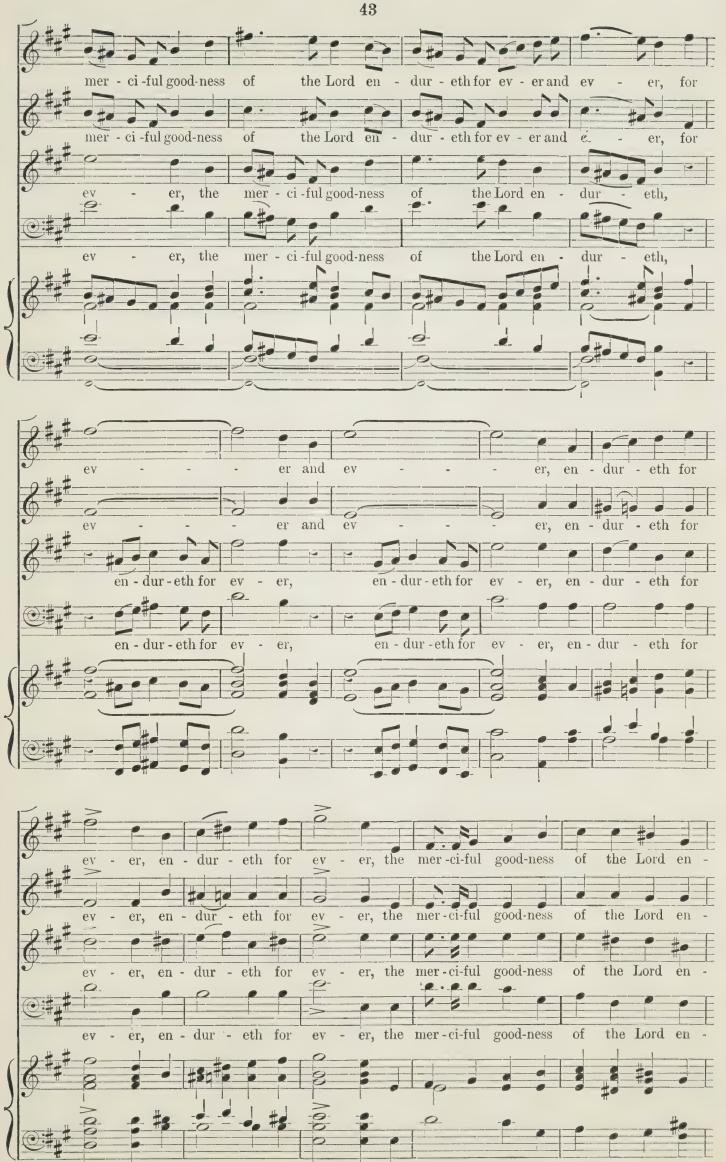












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* Or Contralto.



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No. 5.—LET ALL THE PEOPLE PRAISE THEE.





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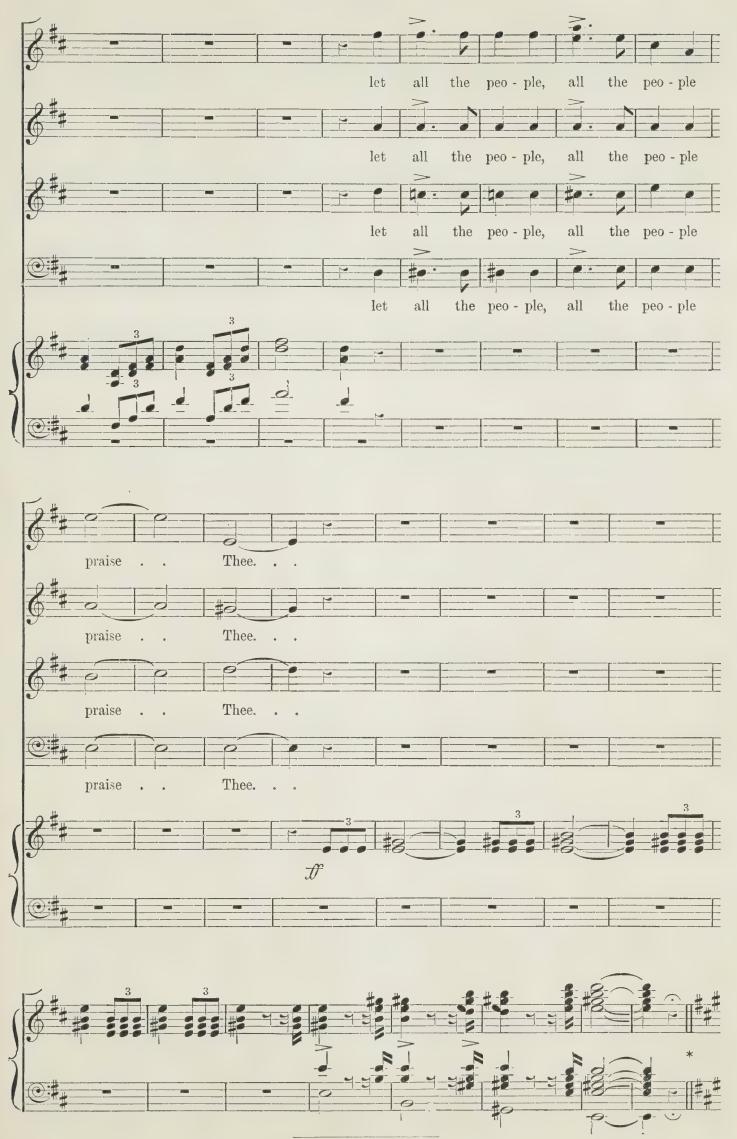




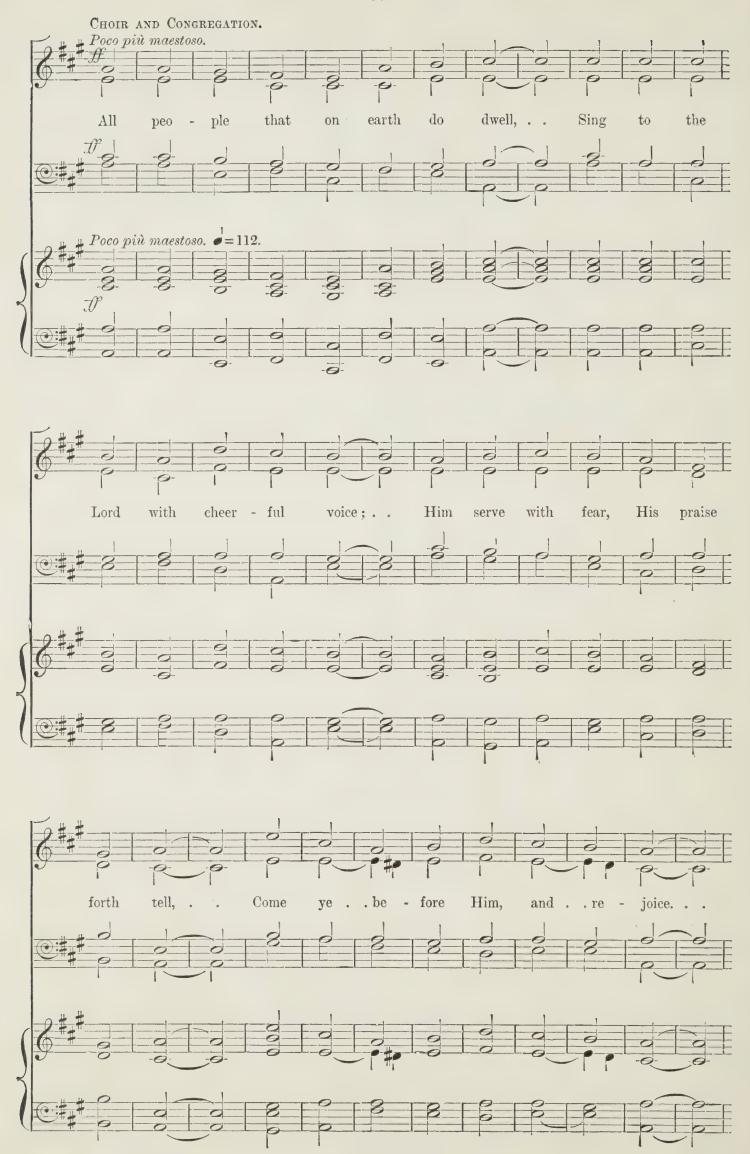
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* See page 65 for Alternative Conclusion.





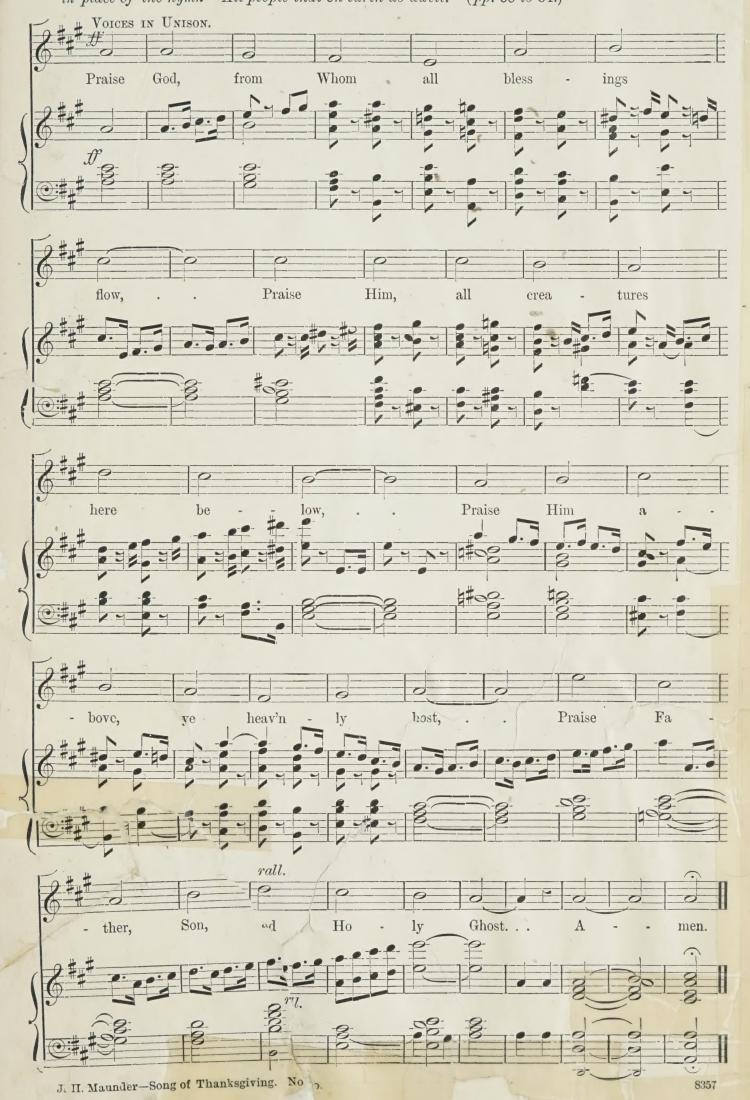






ALTERNATIVE CONCLUSION.

For Concert use, or in order to shorten the work, the following may immediately succeed page 59 in place of the hymn "All people that on earth do dwell." (pp. 60 to 64.)





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